

HALF A TON OF GOLD STOLEN.

THIEVES TUNNEL INTO SMELTER VAULT AND GET \$280,000.

Body From the Selby Works at Vallejo, Cal., Taken Away in a Boat—\$280,000 Left on the Shore—Thieves Have Been at Work for Weeks—Tunnel Starts Close to Building—Hole Bored Through Steel Floor—Hunt Made While Workmen Were Nearby—Convicts Suspected, but No Real Clues.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—A robbery, so bold in its conception and daring in its execution, that it has fairly paralyzed the smelter industry at Vallejo, early this morning. Four bars of pure gold, each weighing from 1,300 to 3,000 ounces, and about 10,000 ounces of other gold, the total value being \$280,000, were taken from the strong room of the smelter while workmen were busy within fifteen feet of the door.

The laborers heard the noise made by the thieves, but said, "It's only ghosts in the vault," and went on with their work. While they labored at the furnace the gold bars were taken from the vault to a boat and carried away.

No clue was left for the detectives to work upon and there is small hope that any of the stolen treasure will ever be found. The robbery must have been planned for months, while the actual work required many nights of labor.

SCENE OF THE ROBBERY.

The Selby Works are located on the bay shore about thirty miles north of this city and almost opposite Mare Island. Here all the gold reaching this city is refined for shipment to the Mint. The vault in which the gold is stored is located in the cupel furnace building, almost against the side of a rocky hill.

The robbers evidently had exact information concerning the location of the strong room and they must have had diagrams so accurate as their work. Some of them must have also possessed a high order of engineering skill.

HOW THE THIEVES WORKED.

The crooks sank a shaft about three or four feet deep at the back of the furnace building, starting very close to the wall in order that it might not attract attention. From the bottom of this shaft a tunnel ten feet long and three feet in diameter was run directly under the vault.

This work could be done only at night as workmen are in the vicinity at all times during the day. In the daytime the shaft entrance was covered by a sheet of rubber and loose boards, but no attempt was made to make their structure strong enough to bear a man.

From the tunnel, which was large enough to give the thieves plenty of room to work, some one with more than an ordinary machinist's skill drilled holes in the steel floor of the vault. This work was evidently done a little at a time in order not to arouse suspicion. When the final moment came the last holes were bored, a circular piece of floor large enough to let the body of a man through was forced out, and the treasure was at the mercy of the thieves. It was an easy matter to carry the gold bars a few yards to the water's edge, where a boat was in waiting.

LEFT \$50,000 ON THE SHORE.

It is apparent that the final act in the crime was carried out in great haste, as the burglars left on the shore two bars of gold worth at least \$50,000. In order that they might not be interrupted while at work the robbers wedged the doors of the vault from the inside.

The thieves got away with four fine gold bars, all numbered and containing as follows: 1,238, 1,190 ounces and a fraction; 1,237, 3,300 ounces; 1,239, 1,123 ounces and a fraction; 1,230, 1,037 ounces and a fraction; also \$10,000 ounces of gold in various shapes and some silver. The gold in the bricks is worth 20.67 per ounce.

WORKMEN HEARD THE NOISE BUT SAID "GHOSTS."

The robbery, which is supposed to have occurred some time after midnight, was discovered when the vault was opened this morning. All night men were at work in the cupel smelter, fifteen feet distant from the safe. An old man, named McGlynn, heard a noise in the safe in the early morning hours and directed attention to it.

"There's something a-goin' on in there," he exclaimed. The men, who had paused to listen, resumed work and the robbers completed their task.

At 5 o'clock the steamer Sunol steamed up to the smelter wharf to take on board the gold for transportation to the city. Workmen near their trucks into the building and waited at the door of the strong room.

DISCOVERY OF THE LOSS.

Supt. Van Ropp unlocked the door and tried to swing it open, but it resisted his efforts. Force was applied and the door was forced open. As it did so an iron bar, which had been used to wedge it to the floor, came flying out.

Then, for the first time, did the employees of the smelter suspect the truth. In the middle of the steel floor was a gaping hole like a manhole of a boiler, and most of the gold which had been stored in the safe was gone.

In an instant the whole story was known. The edge of the hole, which was pushed in with the aid of a jack. This was done from the fact that the plate removed was concave on the side that was turned downward and shows the application of strong pressure. The floor of the safe is five-sixteenths of an inch thick, so that strong force was necessary to loosen the plate.

THIEVES HAD BEEN WORKING FOR WEEKS.

One of the workmen of the smelter was sent down through the tunnel, which ran south to the back of the building and brought him to daylight through the shaft. A broken drill, found in the vault, was covered with rust, while several of the holes were also rusty and had apparently been bored a couple of months ago, while the work of the story that work had been under way for some time. The last holes bored were comparatively few in number.

THE VAULT WAS TOO STRONG.

When it is considered that an immense amount of gold and silver is contained in the smelter vault at various times, it seems a remarkably flimsy structure. It is 10 feet long, 5 feet wide and 8 feet high. The walls are composed of steel sheets about an eighth of an inch in thickness, while the floor is a little thicker. Through this metal a drill, when operated through a hand, cut as readily as an auger through wood.

THIEVES LEFT NO TRACK.

Workmen gave the alarm immediately and a thorough search of the premises was made.

THE BERKSHIRE HILLS ROUTE of the New York, New Haven & Hartford R. R. for Pittsfield, Lenox, and Stockbridge, Mass., is the shortest route for the Berkshire Hills. The route is a scenic route, and the scenery is beautiful. The route is a scenic route, and the scenery is beautiful.

No trace of the thieves could be found. A messenger was dispatched to summon Sheriff Contra Costa, and a telephone message was sent to San Francisco, notifying the main office. San Francisco detectives were sent to all points around the bay.

The watchman of the smelter reported that they made the rounds of the building before midnight and found nothing suspicious. It was some time after that they would have been taken the direction in which the tide was running. Every possible clue is being followed, but I am unable to say that we have been at all successful thus far. We hope later to make the announcement that the robbers have been apprehended. I believe that they secured about \$280,000. The detectives are looking after recently discharged employees.

Between the time of the round of the watchman and 5 o'clock the thieves completed the work of cutting out the plate in the door, carried away \$280,000 in gold about thirty yards from the vault and hid on the tracks of the San Pablo Bay.

The officers have little on which to begin a search for the thieves and booty, and they believe that the hope of ever seeing either. They believe that the robbers had a plan and during one of the watches they carried out a stupendous job in the present form could easily be traced, but a few hours' work with an ordinary prospector's outfit would change its form completely.

SEARCH FOR A MYSTERIOUS LAUNCH.

The detectives have one faint hope, and that is that they may find the launch in which the thieves undoubtedly made their escape. The smelter people remember having seen a strange steam or gasoline launch in the bay several times in the last few weeks, but as launch parties from San Francisco and Vallejo frequently visit that part of the bay their suspicions were not aroused and they took no precautions to guard against them.

The problem for the detectives to solve is to find the launch. Despatches were sent to every point along the bay and coast where a launch might touch to be on watch for such a craft, but this is hardly likely to lead to the finding of the burglars' boat. There is no doubt that the launch is somewhere about the upper bay in which a launch might hide. There was nothing to prevent the crooks from going far up Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers if desired, but it is thought by the officers that they came toward this city, as the tide was running out at the time. At Selby the tide runs very rapidly, and even a powerful launch would not be able to go against the tide. The occupants were in a hurry, as the thieves must have been.

EX-CONVICT A SUSPECT.

Supt. Eaton Von Ropp thinks that the robbery was planned in San Quentin and executed by expert and accomplished safebreakers. A man named Dick Phelan, formerly an employee at the works, and who recently was released from San Quentin, is the only man who has been reported to have been seen recently in the vicinity of the works. It is the theory of Von Ropp that Phelan either gave the information to the burglars or gave the plot to be executed on his release, or gave necessary information to other criminals to enable them to accomplish the robbery.

The theory is that the vault, which held the treasure of the smelter, was so long overlooked by enterprising safebreakers.

One of the employees of the smelter was discharged about six weeks ago, and if he can be found he will be detained pending an investigation as to his movements. It is believed that the burglars had accurate information as to the movements of treasure and that they waited until they were sure that their work would not be molested.

THE SMELTER PEOPLE MAKE IT A RULE to keep bullion at the works any longer than absolutely necessary. Each day's earnings are sent to the company's office in this city on the following morning on the steamer Sunol. The robbers evidently knew this custom, as they so timed their work as to be away before the Sunol arrived.

THIEVES HAD INSIDE INFORMATION.

The officials, while not charging collusion on the part of the employees with the thieves, declare that the latter had inside knowledge of the conditions at the works. The company is keeping out strangers. The fact that the burglars took their time in making preparations for opening the vault and waited until there was a large amount of gold there would seem to indicate that their information was very accurate.

All who have seen the tunnel through which the burglars made their way to the vault declare that it must have required several weeks to have accomplished the job of digging out such a large quantity of gold. The fact that the burglars had the numerous employees of the smelter. The digging could only have been accomplished at night. The dirt must have been carried out of the vault and thrown into the bay, as there is nothing about the entrance of the shaft to show that anything unusual was in progress.

THEORIES AS TO THE ESCAPE.

The Selby Works are located on the main line of the Central Pacific road to Sacramento. Streets run north and south. The tunnel passed close to the entrance of the tunnel made by the burglars. These facts caused some of the officers to think that the thieves might have got away by rail, but the fact that the gold bars weighed more than half a ton makes this theory untenable, while the discovery of the hole in the water's edge seems to remove the fact that the route pursued by the burglars in their retreat.

There is a possibility that the gold was taken a short distance and then was hidden in the bay, the location being marked by a small buoy or fixed from marks on shore. This would enable the thieves to return to the vault at a later date and retrieve the gold. The general belief is that the gold was brought to this city or taken to some place around the bay. Police officers were on guard to-day along the docks and at railroad stations, but nothing developed.

THE COMPANY'S STATEMENT.

An official of the Selby Smelting Works made the following statement:

"The robbers must have succeeded in entering the vault some time between the hours of midnight and 5 o'clock this morning. They entered the vault through a hole about the size of a manhole in a boiler, and indicated their way to the vault. The robbers have been working on the boiler for some time. Over 150 holes were bored into the bottom of the vault, and the workmanship indicates that mechanics of more than usual skill were concerned in the job. Holes were bored to within a hair's breadth of the surface, and when the proper time came the plate was forced up through, giving the robbers access to the vault."

The plotters first excavated a hole along the side of the building directly in line with the vault. The work of excavating must have been done at night, as the vault is closed at night, and the work was done in the dark. The work was done in the dark, and the work was done in the dark.

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have taken several trips for one man, or several men must have been employed in carrying the metal to the boat, which we are assured was in waiting in the bay. The vault was several sacks containing \$10,000 but this was not touched.

"It is impossible for us to say at this time in what direction the crooks went, as they used a steam launch to leave the scene of the robbery they could have gone in any direction, but if they escaped in a rowboat they would doubtless have taken the direction in which the tide was running. Every possible clue is being followed, but I am unable to say that we have been at all successful thus far. We hope later to make the announcement that the robbers have been apprehended. I believe that they secured about \$280,000. The detectives are looking after recently discharged employees."

PRESIDENT IS HOPEFUL.

A. J. Ravison, President of the company, said: "The amount of our loss is probably about \$280,000 though I cannot say exactly what the value of the bars of unrefined gold that were taken. There were thirty-three bars of unrefined gold that were to go into the refining pots to-morrow. They were of varying degrees of fineness and averaged 818 or 819 an ounce, probably about \$15. There were four bars of fine gold, which were to be brought across the bay to the United States Mint to-day. They were worth \$20.47 an ounce."

"The safe is an old one and has been in use for sixteen years. It is an old style safe, made of heavy iron plates riveted in rather a remote corner of the works. It had some foundation beneath it, but what it is I cannot say. We have men at work day and night and there must have been at least 100 of them in the vault when the robbery occurred. While circumstances may indicate collusion on the part of some of our men, I am unwilling to say anything on that point."

"It was certainly an excellent opportunity to commit a robbery. We had on hand the monthly clean-up of many California mines and some gold from Alaska. I usually have so large an amount of bullion at the works."

"I feel confident, however, that the robbers will be apprehended and the gold recovered. It is almost impossible to destroy the identity of the gold. Every bar is stamped with a number and weight and the fine gold bars are stamped with the name of the company. We shall send circulars to all of our foreign dealers in bullion and all of them make a study of such things they will undoubtedly recognize the bars if they come into their hands."

"In any event the loss will not fall on our customers. Our company bought the bars from the mines and have already paid for them. The loss is almost entirely to stand the loss if we have to, as we have a large surplus. This is the first serious loss we have sustained since the company was formed in 1885."

POLICE HAVE NO CLUE.

"It is the boldest robbery in the history of the State," said Captain of Detectives Seymour, "and from all the information that can be obtained it appears that the robbers were not due to the robbery. In fact we do not know whether the crime was committed by one man or five. The probability is that the robbers were more than one man was concerned in it. We have taken all the precautions to capture the robbers."

"Telegrams have been sent to every Sheriff in the central part of the State ordering him to search for the missing gold, to overhaul every boat and steamer within his jurisdiction, to search every railroad train and stage coach passing through his county and to examine every one taking passage at the different railroad stations throughout the State. We can do no more than this, and think that the precautions we have taken are stronger than any attempt is made to ship the bullion by any of the ordinary modes of conveyance we will discover it."

NEW FOR AUTOMOBILE RACES.

City Council of Newport Gives Permission to Use the Ocean Drive.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 6.—The multi-tailed of automobile races at Newport are to occur despite opposition. About a week ago several petitions were put in circulation, asking the City Council in the name of the National Automobile Racing Association for permission to use certain parts of the Ocean Drive on Aug. 30 for automobile races. The petitions met with popular favor, not only with the society folk, but with the townspeople, and several hundred signatures were secured.

To-night the matter came up at the meeting of the city government, and the petitioners got all that they asked for, and the Ocean Drive and connecting roads will be practically closed between the hours of 4 and 6 o'clock, so that the races may have full sway.

William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., as President of the National Automobile Racing Association, personally worked for the signature of several of the cottagers to the petition. The greatest opposition was from Prof. Agassiz, T. M. Davis and S. L. Huntington, whose villas are on the proposed racetrack. When the petition came up at the Council meeting the Mayor stated that under the State law the council had no right to give up the Ocean Drive to the racers and the racers got the use of the roads. There is more of less talk that higher powers will have to stop the event but it is looked upon as idle talk.

For these races both Mr. and Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., will offer cups, one of which will be for the championship of America. Cups will also be offered by Mrs. Herman Oelrichs and Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H. Belmont, in all five cups. This will be the first time that Mr. Vanderbilt's "Red Devil," as his new German racer has been called, will be seen in a race, and he is so confident that he will win that he has written to the other racers that he will write letters to all the owners of fast machines in this country to meet him on that day. This will give Albert C. Bestwick a thorough race, and the other fast machines will come on for the race, which will be the only one of the kind that has ever been held in this country, and the racers will be in a race for the first time.

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SAY WOMAN RULED THE JUDGE.

MORE SENSATIONAL EVIDENCE IN MONTANA MINE CASE.

Admiral Tell of Mrs. Brackett's Control of Judge Harney and a Confession That She Was Employed by the Heinze and Was to Get \$100,000 If the Mine Heavily Case Was Decided in Her Favor—Drinking Bouts of the Woman and the Judge Described by Witnesses.

BUTTE, Mont., Aug. 6.—The evidence on which the attorneys for the Amalgamated Copper Company base their charges of corruption against Judge E. W. Harney, who, they allege, decided the big Minnie Heine case in favor of E. Augustus Heinze because a woman in the employ of the Heinze people influenced him to do so, was presented in court to-day. The evidence is contained in a great mass of affidavits made by persons familiar with the habits of Judge Harney and the woman in the case, Mrs. Ada H. Brackett.

On one occasion Judge Harney and Mrs. Brackett were seen drinking together. The evidence is furnished by two persons, Miss E. L. Walters and J. W. Walters, who had been intimate friends of friendship with both Judge Harney and Mrs. Brackett. Both evidently made affidavits of Miss Walters' story. The parties were all guests at the Butte Hotel prior and subsequent to the trial of the Minnie Heine case and about the time that Judge Harney rendered his decision by which he gave a \$100,000 property to Heinze upon the payment by him of \$54,000 to the Amalgamated Company representative in the case.

Miss Walters and Mr. Walters testify that Mrs. Brackett told them repeatedly that she was in the employ of Heinze and that Mrs. Brackett had promised her \$100,000 and had asked her to take care of Judge Harney and do other secret work for the Heinze Company.

Judge Harney, the affidavits say, visited Mrs. Brackett in her rooms frequently and the two were often under the influence of liquor. Judge Harney once told Miss Walters that drink was his curse, but that Mrs. Brackett was to blame for it all. He said he would go to his wife and children and let drink alone.

On one occasion Harney and Mrs. Brackett got into a heated altercation and the Judge threatened to have one of his friends brought to court, whereupon Mrs. Brackett called him a "drunken fool," and said that if he dared do as he had threatened she would have him thrown from the bench, and that she would do her best to ruin him. He then promised to be good and to obey her in every suggestion.

On the day that he made his decision he called Mrs. Brackett to his office and signed an order that would cause the Amalgamated Company to do some thinking, and that from then on he would not let up on the company. Mrs. Brackett urged him to give it hell, and she told her to keep her eyes on him and watch him.

Mrs. Brackett also asked him to watch her, and she told her to keep her eyes on him and watch him. She told her to keep her eyes on him and watch him. She told her to keep her eyes on him and watch him.

The parties were out on a carousal, according to the affidavits, and became very drunk. Judge Harney continually told Mrs. Brackett that he loved her and that he would do her best to ruin him. He then promised to be good and to obey her in every suggestion.

After the exposure came, Judge Harney told Walters that he was in deep trouble, but that he was going to call on Mrs. Brackett, and he would go up there and cuddle up to her, for he loved her so much. Judge Harney is quoted as saying that the earth is not big enough to hold the man who gave him away and he would certainly kill him.

It is related that Mrs. Brackett and the Judge often visited neighboring towns and resorts together and remained over night. Judge Harney was usually very drunk. Other evidence is that the Heinze people rented a furnished house for Mrs. Brackett on the west side of the city, and that she lived there. She was frequently visited by Judge Harney. Mrs. Walters says Mrs. Brackett told her that she received a salary of \$150 a month and expenses, and that she was going to be paid for her services. She told her to keep her eyes on him and watch him.

Mrs. Brackett came to Montana from Minneapolis. She is a divorced woman.

CRAZY MAN IN THE WOODS.

Fires Upon Two Physicians Who Go in Search of Him.

DANVILLE, N. J., Aug. 6.—Philip Smith, who lived on a large farm near this place, became insane recently. Arrangements were made to send him to the Morris Plains Asylum, but when he heard of the plan he grabbed his gun and took to the woods. About a week ago he returned in the middle of the night, and breaking the windows of his house, threatened to kill his wife. By pleading and coaxing she saved her life. She cooked some food for him and when he had eaten it he started off for the woods again.

Drs. Burd and Hoagland went from Belvidere, N. J., to Danville on Monday last, and after a search of several days they found him in the woods. They started out to find him. About an hour after they returned, badly scared. They had been fired upon several times by Smith, who followed them for some distance toward Danville.

He was scantily clothed and a posse of men was sent out to capture the crazy man. He was captured and taken to the asylum.

SENTENCED IN A CHURCH.

Whitcomb Shinn Gets Eighteen Years for Murdering Farmer Applegate.

TRENTON, N. J., Aug. 6.—Samuel Shinn, the Extontville Whitcomb recently convicted of the murder of Thomas F. Applegate, was sentenced to-day by Justice Gummere to eighteen years in the State prison. Sentence was pronounced in the Central Methodist Church, the chapel of which has been leased by the county authorities for use as a court room while the new court house is being built. The unusual spectacle of a murderer receiving sentence from a pulpit created a great interest.

Shinn was completely unnerfed and tears streamed down his face the entire time. His counsel made an earnest appeal for a new trial on three grounds: that the verdict was not in accordance with the weight of evidence, second that the Court erroneously charged that there was no testimony to the effect that Applegate had died of apoplexy, and third that the County in its charge to the jury had not properly defined manslaughter. The application for a new trial was denied.

Fast and Famous Train to St. Louis.

Leave New York (via 23rd street station) via Pennsylvania Railroad at 9:30 A. M., 1:35 and 5:35 P. M. daily.—Advt.

Pittsfield in a hour. North Adams in 5 hours. From New York, via Harlem Division of the New York Central Railroad, through Staatsburg, to Pittsfield, N. Y., daily.—Advt.

For vacation trips, 1 day or more, send 6c. in stamps to Hudson River Day Line, Des Moines St. Pittsfield, N. Y.—Advt.

Amour Gets a Foreign Automobile.

Chicago, Aug. 6.—J. Ogden Armour has purchased an automobile similar in type to the one purchased by John W. Gates and expects it to arrive here within the next two weeks.

I suppose I have a professional French chauffeur, too," said Mr. Armour, "but I have not contracted for one yet."

For vacation trips, 1 day or more, send 6c. in stamps to Hudson River Day Line, Des Moines St. Pittsfield, N. Y.—Advt.

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WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY PLANT.

Tesla's First Station Will Be Built at Wardenyeffe, L. I.

PORT JEFFERSON, L. I., Aug. 6.—The first station of Nikola Tesla's wireless telegraph system will be built at Wardenyeffe, nine miles east of this place. The purchase of 200 acres of land on the shore of Long Island Sound has just been completed. The work of putting up the necessary buildings will begin in a short time. The main building is to be 100 feet square and it will be occupied by an electric plant of 350 horsepower. The estimated cost of this part of the plant will be nearly \$150,0